

# HURRICANE CARLA 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



175 mph peak wind speed (Cat 5)  
before landfall  
Peak wind gusts:  
173 mph at Port Aransas  
170 mph at Port Lavaca  
150 mph at Victoria

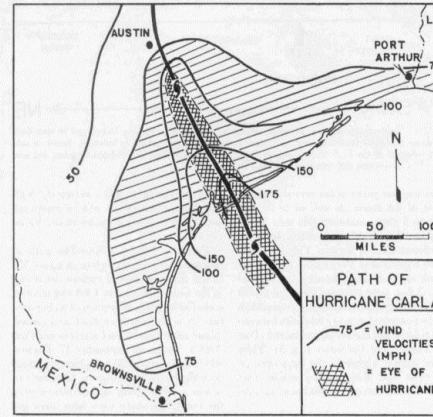


FIG. 4. Path of hurricane Carla, 1961, across Texas. Contours of velocities (mph) of winds associated with the storm are also shown. (After Cooperman and Summer, 1961.)

Carla spawned 26 tornadoes  
Rainfall amount was between 10 to 16.5 inches as far as 50 miles inland  
46 fatalities



Port Aransas, TX

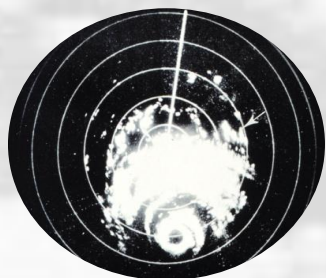


Port Lavaca, TX  
Estimated damage total over \$300 million (\$2.36 billion in 2010)



Palacios, TX

22-foot storm surge reaching 10 miles inland in places



Radar image of Carla

"As I looked at our home through the back window of my dad's pickup while he drove away through the slow rising water, I did not realize that would be the last view I would ever have of our home."  
- Matagorda, TX

"We were without power for about 5 days and it took about 2 days for the water to recede."  
- Matagorda, TX

"I was not walking at a straight angle, but my body was slanted because of the wind and the water was up to my chest."  
- Palacios, TX



Port O'Connor, TX

"All of the sudden we heard a loud thumping noise, something banging against the house. When we looked out, it was a house!"  
- Palacios, TX

Photos courtesy Corpus Christi Caller-Times